CAG's Enquiry in Import of Accident Relief Cranes

4365. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether enquiry has been completed in respect of controversial import of accident relief cranes, pointed out by the C.A.G.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to meet the full demand of Railways' requirement in this regard indigenously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIIAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jamalpur Workshop of Eastern Railway has so far successfully manufactured four 140 Tonne diesel Hydraulic Breakdown Cranes. There is a plan to indigenously manufacture about 4 cranes per year at Jamalpur workshop of Eastern Railway and also at Parel Workshop of Central Railway depending upon availability of funds and the need to replace low capacity steam cranes.

Import of Cranes

4366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have imported cranes for accident relief during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details of such cranes imported and total value thereof;

(c) the reasons of importing such cranes, by ignoring indigenous manufacturers;

(d) whether Government would investigate the deals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways had placed two orders for procurement of 140 Tonne Accident Relief Cranes against a tender opened in February'1996. One order was placed on M/s Mannesmann Gottwald, Germany with total FOB value as

Deutsche Marks 24,905, 184.20 for 8 cranes and other order on M/s Cowans Sheldon, UK for 4 cranes with total FOB value as UK Pound Sterling 5,423,442.

(c) These cranes were procured through import to meet urgent requirement as the indigenous production at Jamalpur Workshop of Eastern Railway was not adequate.

(d) and (e) Central Bureau of Investigation has beeen entrusted to conduct detailed investigation into the procurement case of 12 numbers 140 Tonne Accident Relief Cranes in view of the specific observations of Comptroller and Auditor General of India in their Report No. 9 of 1999.

Construction of B.G. Rail-Line from Manoharpur to Paradip

† 4367. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Railways is going to construct a broad gauge rail line from Manoharpur to Paradip to encourage development and export of mineral based industries, in view of the huge mineral resources in the Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Acute constraint of resources.

Passenger Amenities Committee in Mumbai

4368. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reconstituted the passengers amenities Committee in Mumbai

. (b) if so, the details of Committee members and objectives of the said Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has presented any report, and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.